

IMPACT OF TRAINING PROGRAMME ON LIVELIHOOD OF RURAL WOMEN OF RAJKOT DISTRICT OF GUJARAT

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Abstract: The aim of the present study, on 225 rural women from district Rajkot of Gujarat who had participated in the different off campus training programmes related to different aspects of post harvest management and value addition in fruits and vegetables, was to study the impact of the trainings on the knowledge level and gain in knowledge of the trainees regarding the different aspects of the training offered to them. Majority of the trainees had low knowledge level about the skills of post harvest management and value addition in fruits and vegetables which was increased in majority of the trainees after successful completion of the trainings.

Keywords: Knowledge level, KVK, Impact of Training Programme.

Introduction

Training means to bring about continuous improvement in quality of work performed by the individuals. It should equip the trainees with necessary knowledge, skills or abilities and attitude to perform the job (Taylor, 1961). So, training is an important tool to bring improvement in the skills of the individual and apply to the performance of his or her specific work situation. Training provides an opportunity to the farmers to get awareness of agricultural technologies as well as the shift in agricultural development approach through farming enterprises. Human resource is the most precious resource for any country. It is however not the numerical but the qualitative strength of the people which forges a country ahead towards progress and prosperity. It is basically the development of human resources that brings about socioeconomic or political-cultural transformation of a society. India faces the most challenging task of transferring the fast emerging agricultural technologies to sustain and increase in farm productivity and economic viability of farming. A variety of extension programmes are taken up by the KVK's in our country for creating awareness, educating and motivating the farmers, farm women and rural youth to adopt the newer technologies in the

field. The training programmes of KVK's are multipurpose to cover not only the needs of a person but also the entire needs of a village or community. It covers agricultural technology, home crafts, childcare, family welfare, cooperation, animal rearing and management, fisheries, beekeeping, cottage industries etc depending upon the needs of an area and the people. KVKs impart trainings and education with a view to raise the level of knowledge, attitudinal changes and testing and transferring of recommended improved farm technologies so as to bridge the gap between production and productivity and also to increase self-employment opportunities among the farming community.

Efforts have been made by the KVK Targhadia (Rajkot) in some villages to upgrade the skills of rural women in specialized areas for better socio economic status and better adaptability of scientific knowhow in day to day practices at home level. Dependent women are not empowered women. If women think just that being highly educated and employed they are empowered, it is a myth (*Banga, 2010*). Trainings on post harvest management of fruits and vegetables have been organized by the KVK for rural women whose impact evaluation needs to be done to identify the constraints and impacts. The impact assessment is a generic term that includes social, human, technological and psychological impact assessment (*Dipak & Basavaprabhu, 2005*). It also refers to the outcome of the results of activities and net effect of activities on economic and social status. Impact assessment has emerged as an important aspect to measure the effectiveness of training programmes for the improvement of livelihood and living standards of people in order to bring a more sustainable change. Along with qualitative effects of programmes it also measures the extent to which its goals are attained, so that suitable changes can be made to make the programme more effective. Keeping in view, the present study was undertaken at KVK Targhadia (Rajkot) with the objective to find out the increase in the knowledge level of trainees covered under training courses.

Material Methods

The present study was undertaken in the five villages (Khorana, Kheradi, Magharwada, Jiyana, and Khijadia) of district Rajkot where the different training programmes for farm women were conducted. The trainings were conducted on the post harvest management and value addition of fruits and vegetables. For the present study 225 trainees were selected. A knowledge test was undertaken to assess the knowledge level of trainees on various trainings conducted by the KVK. The gain in knowledge was computed as difference between the knowledge level regarding the different training programmes attained by the farm women before and after the exposure to the training. To measure the knowledge, a respondent was given a score of one for

correct answer and zero for wrong answer. Thus, the summation of all scores treated as the knowledge of the respondents at pre-exposure stage. Similarly post-training knowledge score was calculated separately. Suitable statistical tools and techniques were used for analysis of data.

Results and Discussion

Knowledge level of Farm women regarding the different aspects of training.

The knowledge level of trainees was measured with the help of standardized test at two stages i.e before the training programmes and immediately after the training programme. The knowledge level of trainees was classified as having high, medium and low on the basis of score. The present observations as shown in table 1 revealed that before the training programme the 64.89 percent of trainees had low level of knowledge regarding the different aspects of the training programmes whereas the medium level of knowledge was observed in 29.33 percent of the trainees and high level of knowledge was observed in 5.78 percent of trainees. The knowledge level of the trainees immediately after the training programme as shown in table 2 showed that the majority of the trainees (55.11 %) were having medium level of knowledge whereas high level of knowledge were observed in 2.89 percent of trainees. The low level of knowledge was observed in 24 percent of the trainees.

Table1. Pre- training Knowledge level score of Trainees (N=225)

S. No	Knowledge Level	No.	Percentage
1.	Low	146	64.89
2.	Medium	66	29.33
3.	High	13	5.78

Table2. Post- training Knowledge level score of Trainees (N=225)

S. No	Knowledge Level	No.	Percentage
1.	Low	54	24.00
2.	Medium	124	55.11
3.	High	47	20.89

Gain in Knowledge

The difference in knowledge before and after the training programme reveals the extent in gain of knowledge of the trainees regarding the different aspects of the training offered to the rural women under the present study which was determined by subtracting the pre-training

knowledge score from the knowledge score obtained after the training. The trainees were classified as high, medium and low on the basis of differential score calculated accordingly which is shown by the table 3. Accordingly it was observed that the gain in knowledge was medium in 63.11 percent of the trainees whereas it was high in only 8.45 percent of trainees and low in 28.44 percent of the trainees.

Table3. Gain in Knowledge level score of Trainees (N=225)

S. No	Knowledge Level	No.	Percentage
1.	Low	64	28.44
2.	Medium	142	63.11
3.	High	19	8.45

Conclusion

From the present study it could be inferred that the majority of farmwomen had low knowledge on the different aspects of post harvest management and value addition of fruits and vegetables which was increased after the training programme and the significant gain in knowledge by the majority of trainees was due to the training methodology adopted by the scientists of KVK and the interest shown by the trainees. The impact of the training can help in further dissemination of the knowledge to other rural women of the area.

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